

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

and

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF NORTHWESTERN LA AND
EAST TEXAS

NOTICE OF RELEASE: 'MEDINA' EASTERN GAMAGRASS

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Northwestern LA and East Texas announce the naming and release of a new variety of eastern gamagrass, 'Medina'.

'Medina' eastern gamagrass, *Tripsacum dactyloides* (L.) L., was developed at the Natural Resources Conservation Service East Texas Plant Materials Center in Nacogdoches, Texas. The permanent number assigned to 'Medina' eastern gamagrass is PI-595897.

Collection site Information: 'Medina' seed was originally collected from a native stand in Hondo Creek bottom of Medina County, Texas in 1986 by NRCS employee Elgin L. Wiemers of the Hondo Field Office. The cultivar release is named after its county of origin, Medina Co., TX.

Description: 'Medina' eastern gamagrass is a native warm season perennial clump grass with an erect growth habit. Stem heights may reach eight (8) ft. Leaves are medium green and have finely toothed margins. The inflorescence consists of spicate racemes (1-2 branches, usually solitary) with staminate spikelets above and pistillate spikelets below.

Method of Selection: From 1988-90, 'Medina' along with eighty five (85) other collections were evaluated for the following criteria: forage abundance, seed production, plant vigor, and stand persistence. The collections were from approximately sixty counties throughout Texas. The initial evaluation was completed in 1990. 'Medina' was one of three collections chosen for superior performance.

In addition to the three chosen collections, PI#434493 (Hays County), and 'Pete', a commercial cultivar were included in advanced studies from 1991-94. The advanced evaluation focused on dry matter yield and digestibility data. During

the study, 'Medina' consistently performed well in dry matter yields exceeding the dry matter yields of 'Pete' by a mean average of 42.9-48.4%. 'Medina' displayed good regrowth traits after clipping. The cultivar exhibits good seed production qualities.

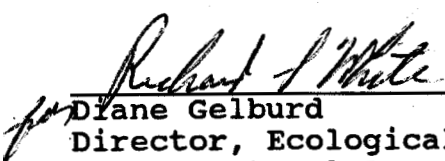
Conservation Use: 'Medina' is a versatile cultivar with potential for forage uses including forage and hay. Other uses include green chop, silage, animal waste management systems and conservation buffers.

Area of Adaptation: Without irrigation, 'Medina' is adapted to areas receiving twenty-five (25) inches or more of rainfall annually throughout USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 8 and 9 (excluding Florida). 'Medina' is adapted to many soil types, however, deep sandy soils are not suitable.

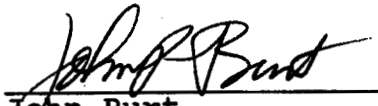
Environmental Impact Assessment: Observation through evaluations and literature reviews indicate this plant poses no threat to man, domestic livestock, or wildlife.

Availability of Plant Materials: The classes of Breeder, Foundation, Registered, and Certified seed are to be recognized. The East Texas Plant Materials Center will maintain breeder seed blocks. Seed will be available through the East Texas Plant Materials Center and the Texas Foundation Seed Service.

Signatures for Release of:
'Medina' Eastern gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides* (L.) L.


Diane Gelburd
Director, Ecological Science Division
USDA / Natural Resources Conservation Service

6/30/00
Date


John Burt
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Temple, TX

11-23-99
Date

Angus Mims
Angus Mims
Chairman, Board of Directors
East Texas Plant Materials Center

8/19/99
Date

William Justiss
William Justiss
Pres., North East Texas Association of SWCDs

9-18-99
Date

Wayne Baker
Wayne Baker
Pres., Deep East Texas Association of SWCDs

9-1-99
Date

Donald W. Hohmert
Donald W. Hohmert
State Conservationist
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Alexandria, LA

10/19/99
Date

Jerry Holmes
Jerry Holmes
Pres., Louisiana Association of
Conservation Districts

10-5-99
Date